WYOMING

VOL. 25 NO. 1 JAN. 1988

LABOR FORCE TRENDS

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Oct '87	Nov '87
Labor Force	238,960	235,927
Employment	223,224	219,129
Unemployment	15,736	16,798
Rate (Raw)	6.6	7.1
Rate (S.A.)	7.7	7.6
Mining Hourly Wage	$13.99	$13.91
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.1	47.0
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	6.0	5.9
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.36	$12.48
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.7	42.3
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	345.3	345.8
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.5	+4.5

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

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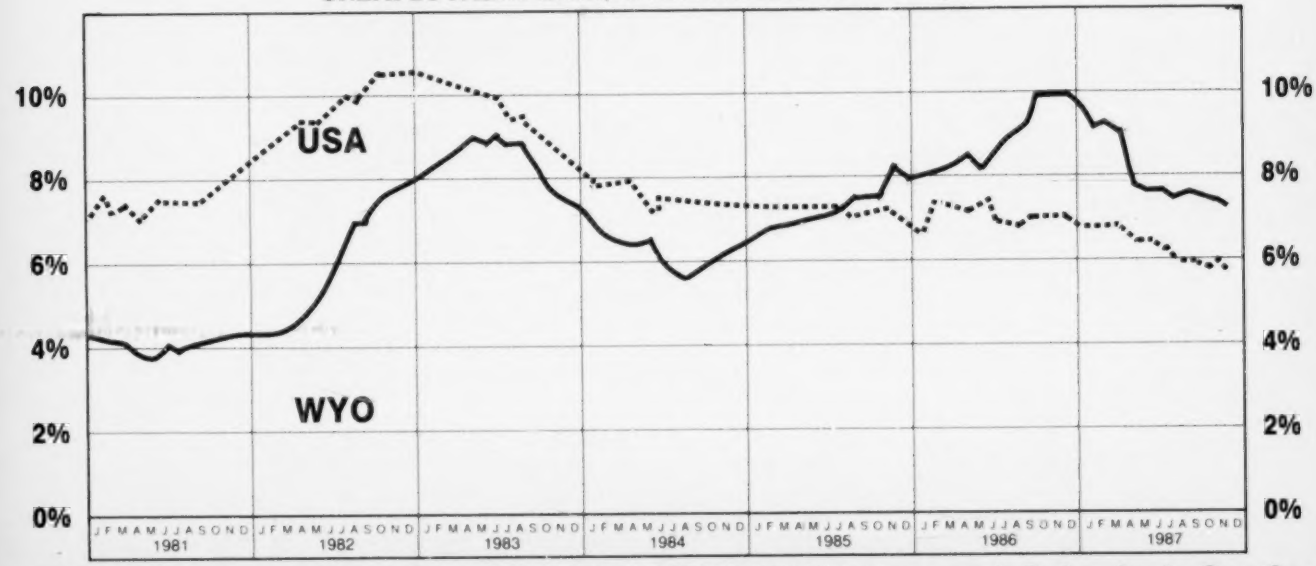
NATIONAL JOBLESS RATE AT 5.9 PERCENT

The nation continued in good economic health during November, 1987. Seasonally adjusted unemployment stood at 5.9 percent, down slightly from the 6.0 percent of October and the same as the 5.9 percent rate in September. The September rate was the lowest rate recorded since November, 1979. In fact, 1987 unemployment through November has averaged 6.2 percent for the nation. This compares to an annual average of 7.2 percent in 1985 and 7.0 percent in 1986. The number of unemployed in the U.S. in November was about 7.1 million, down 1.1 million over-the-year.

The average duration of unemployment in November, reflecting the improved economy, was 13.8 weeks, down considerably from 14.8 weeks a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Year-to-year comparisons of nationwide employment indicated the number of workers in November was 113.5 million, an annual gain of 3.1 million, a 2.8 percent increase. Employment gains were registered in all major industrial categories over-the-year. Services continued the growth industry and posted an annual gain in excess of one million workers. Retail trade followed with an employment gain of 367,000, followed by manufacturing, up 360,000, and government, up 346,000. Adult women continued the trend of outpacing men with a 3.4 percent annual growth rate. This compares to 2.2 percent for adult men. Black female teenagers posted the highest unemployment at 36.7 percent.

WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT AT 7.6 PERCENT

Seasonally adjusted, the Wyoming November unemployment rate stood at 7.6 percent, about the same as the October rate of 7.7 percent, and down from the year ago rate of 9.9 percent.

Wyoming's unadjusted unemployment rate for November, at 7.1 percent, was up seasonally for the second month in a row. The November rate was the lowest for that month since 1984. Historical trends indicate that the number of unemployed will continue to rise througth January or February of 1988.

The total number of unemployed in Wyoming in November stood at 16,798, up from 15,736 in October, and down 26 percent from 22,643 a year ago.

WYOMING LABOR FORCE CONTINUES DOWN FROM YEAR AGO

The statewide civilian labor force continued to shrink seasonally in November, over one percent from October, and down over three percent from a year ago. The number of workers, total employment, in November was down 2,100, or one percent, over the year. Across the state only manufacturing and mining indicated notable annual employment gains. All other major industries were at, or below, year ago levels.

AREA TRENDS

All but five Wyoming counties experienced year-to-year declines in their labor force during November, as did the state as a whole. Counties indicating moderate growth rate of one to three percent were Crook, Goshen, Johnson and Niobrara. Teton County was up 9.0 percent over-the-year. The Jackson area, representing a bright spot in the Wyoming economy, has indicated an annual growth rate in the four to nine percent range thus far in 1987.

OTHER STATES

Wyoming's unemployment rate ranked 10th highest in the nation in October, up from 12th in July, August, and September. Louisiana and New Hampshire continued to have the highest and lowest rates in the nation at 10.1 and 2.1 percent.

WYOMING TOURISM – BIG BUSINESS

Lower gasoline prices and an impressive promotional campaign helped to boost Wyoming Tourism in 1987. During 1987, the Wyoming Travel Commission expanded its promotional campaign to include television and radio advertising, in additon to the traditional print media program.

The U.S. Travel Data Center in Washington, D.C. estimates tourism in Wyoming generates about $150 million annually and employs nearly 19,500 workers. That ranks the tourism industry near the top of all private employing industries.

Two industrial sectors tied closely to tourism are hotels, motels, and lodging places as well as eating and drinking places. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics Program tracks the employment in these industries. Historically, employment increases in these industries through July and tapers off until about March. In July of 1987, hotels, motels, and lodging places employed around 10,000 while eating and drinking places employed 14,900. While not all of those employed in these industries are the result of tourism in the state, a large percentage are.

WYOMING AVERAGE WAGE PER JOB LESS THAN U.S.

Back in 1980 the average wage per job in Wyoming was $1,285 above what jobs paid nationwide, based on an annual salary. For 1986 the average wage per job in Wyoming was $891 less than what jobs paid nationwide. While wages increased 39.5 percent over the past six years in the United States, Wyoming's wages increased just 21.9 percent, according to a December, 1987 Bureau of Economic Analysis report.

Lincoln and Sublette counties were the only counties in Wyoming to see the average wage per job increase at a rate higher than the national average. There were, however, several counties that had a higher average wage per job than the national average in 1986 and they were Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Lincoln, Sublette and Sweetwater.

The county with the lowest average wage per job was Niobrara paying $12,941, while Campbell County paid an average of $23,911 per job.

Most counties in Wyoming saw average wages increasing faster than the Wyoming Cost of Living giving wage earners more spendable income. There were, however, some counties that saw wages increasing at a rate less than the statewide inflation rate of 13.3 percent over the six year period. Carbon, Fremont, Natrona and Platte County wage earners saw their buying power dwindle during the 1980 through 1986 period.

Overall, the average wage per job in Wyoming increased a scant 8.6 percent for the six year period when accounting for an inflation rate of 13.3 percent. Dividing the 8.6 percent by six years leaves most wage earners an extra 1.4 percent a year to put in their pockets.

AVERAGE WAGE PER JOB[1] FULL AND PART-TIME BY PLACE OF WORK

(DOLLARS)

	1980	1986	1980-1986 PERCENT CHANGE
UNITED STATES	$13,978	$19,493	39.5
WYOMING	15,263	18,602	21.9
COUNTIES:			
Albany	11,563	15,449	33.6
Big Horn	12,951	16,571	28.0
Campbell	18,616	23,911	28.4
Carbon	18,031	19,541	8.4
Converse	17,351	20,743	19.5
Crook	12,071	16,443	36.2
Fremont	14,951	16,096	7.7
Goshen	9,975	13,825	38.6
Hot Springs	12,077	15,866	31.4
Johnson	11,486	14,599	27.1
Laramie	14,162	18,490	30.6
Lincoln	15,074	21,554	43.0
Natrona	17,316	18,932	9.3
Niobrara	9,660	12,941	34.0
Park	12,595	16,449	30.6
Platte	15,349	16,714	8.9
Sheridan	12,878	15,469	20.1
Sublette	13,149	20,910	59.0
Sweetwater	18,892	23,227	22.9
Teton	10,446	13,540	29.6
Uinta	14,600	18,761	28.5
Washakie	12,889	17,076	32.5
Weston	13,871	16,446	18.6

Wyoming Statewide Cost of Living 4th 1980 vs. 4th 1986 — 13.3

Source: Department of Administration and Fiscal Control

U.S. Consumer Price Index, annual average 1980 vs. 1986 — 33.1

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, December 1987
Bureau of Labor Statistics

[1] The employment estimates used to compute the average are a job, not person count; people holding more than one job are in the estimates for each job they hold.

TETON COUNTY TOURISM UP IN 1987

While 1987 proved to be another difficult year for Wyoming's economy, there was a bright spot, Teton County tourism. Most indicators exhibited increased tourism activity in Teton County. Some Jackson area officials are even calling 1987 a "very good year" with increases in visitations and sales of about 15 percent. While not a record year like 1979 and 1980, the increase is considerably better than the period of 1982 through 1984 which most officials felt registered annual declines of about five percent.

Recent employment and unemployment figures from Research and Analysis appear to agree. For example, Teton County's unemployment rate registered 2.0 percent in August of 1987, while statewide the rate hovered at 6.5 percent. The last time Teton County had that low of an unemployment rate was September of 1981.

Total employment in Teton County during 1987 has grown about seven percent, while statewide employment has declined around two percent. Figures for November, the latest available and typically showing a seasonal decline, show employment growing from 6,660 in November, 1986 to 7,262 in November of 1987 and annual increase of 602 or 9.0 percent.

If it seems that Teton County is protected from the boom-bust cycles of the energy industry, you're right. Teton County has little, if any employment in the mining sector, while the state involves about 10 percent. The service industry accounts for the majority of employment in Teton County, just over 50 percent. Statewide, services account for 34 percent of employment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that 90 percent of new jobs through 1995 will be in services, and Teton County's service based economy will be in a good position for continued growth.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1967 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
November 1987	345.8	326.7	374.9	288.1	226.4	324.1	471.7
Annual % Change	4.5	3.3	3.6	3.9	6.2	6.5	6.1

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	NOV 1987[1]	OCT 1987[1]	NOV 1986[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	235,927	238,960	243,888	- 1.3	- 3.3
Unemployment	16,798	15,736	22,643	6.7	- 25.8
Employed Labor Force	219,129	223,224	221,245	- 1.8	- 1.0
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	168,200	171,600	172,322	- 2.0	- 2.4
b. Agriculture[3]	8,572	9,967	8,732	- 14.0	- 1.8
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	7.1% 7.6%*	6.6% 7.7%*	9.3% 9.9%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.6% 5.9%*	5.7% 6.0%*	6.6% 6.9%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	2.0%	1.6%	3.7%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 653.77	$ 602.97	$ 627.73	8.4	4.1
Average Weekly Hours	47.0	43.1	42.5	9.0	10.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 13.91	$ 13.99	$ 14.77	- 0.6	- 5.8
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	18,431	14,237	33,245	29.5	- 44.6
a. Initial	3,055	2,884	4,882	5.9	- 37.4
Weeks Compensated	11,261	11,260	28,759	0.0	- 60.8
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,732,738	$ 1,765,942	$ 4,719,894	- 1.9	- 63.3
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 153.60	$ 156.43	$ 163.92	- 1.8	- 6.3
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	2,683	3,611	3,144	- 25.7	- 14.7
Non-Ag. Openings Received	2,332	3,675	2,243	- 36.5	3.4
Non-Ag. Placements	2,198	3,135	2,105	- 29.9	4.4
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 527.90	$ 527.77	$ 520.40	0.0	1.4
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	42.7	41.4	- 0.1	2.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.48	$ 12.36	$ 12.57	0.1	- 0.7
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	345.8	345.3	330.8	0.1	4.5
Producer Prices, All Commodities	311.9	311.4	298.7	0.2	4.4
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	326.7	326.9	316.4	- 0.1	3.3

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	NOV 1987	OCT 1987	NOV 1986	%CHANGE OCT-NOV	%CHANGE NOV-NOV	NOV 1987	OCT 1987	NOV 1986	NOV 1987	OCT 1987	NOV 1986
Statewide	235,927	238,960	243,888	- 1.3	- 3.3	16,798	15,736	22,643	7.1	6.6	9.3
Statewide - Seasonally adjusted									7.6	7.7	9.9
Albany	15,085	14,958	15,260	0.8	- 1.1	729	586	825	4.8	3.9	5.4
Big Horn	4,492	4,615	4,908	- 2.7	- 8.5	331	291	610	7.4	6.3	12.4
Campbell	14,524	14,643	16,468	- 0.8	- 11.8	1,041	984	1,501	7.2	6.7	9.1
Carbon	8,318	8,548	8,390	- 2.7	- 0.9	726	723	828	8.7	8.5	9.9
Converse	5,832	5,848	6,283	- 0.3	- 7.2	447	389	643	7.7	6.7	10.2
Crook	2,881	3,020	2,867	- 4.6	0.5	167	186	251	5.8	6.2	8.8
Fremont	16,280	16,450	16,613	- 1.0	- 2.0	1,258	1,280	1,756	7.7	7.8	10.6
Goshen	6,532	6,559	6,336	- 0.4	3.1	346	298	359	5.3	4.5	5.7
Hot Springs	2,933	2,973	3,044	- 1.3	- 3.6	197	198	237	6.7	6.7	7.8
Johnson	3,584	3,727	3,517	- 3.8	1.9	221	225	350	6.2	6.0	9.9
Laramie	35,409	35,192	36,227	0.6	- 2.3	2,333	1,979	2,479	6.6	5.6	6.8
Lincoln	7,679	7,888	8,070	- 2.6	- 4.8	591	551	844	7.7	7.0	10.5
Natrona	31,537	31,647	33,356	- 0.3	- 5.5	2,368	2,379	3,780	7.5	7.5	11.3
Niobrara	1,624	1,660	1,577	- 2.2	3.0	154	128	139	9.5	7.7	8.8
Park	12,152	12,609	12,377	- 3.6	- 1.8	695	636	1,112	5.7	5.0	9.0
Platte	4,077	4,127	4,158	- 1.2	- 1.9	342	317	433	8.4	7.7	10.4
Sheridan	11,831	12,247	12,197	- 3.4	- 3.0	778	843	1,031	6.6	6.9	8.5
Sublette	3,178	3,429	3,578	- 7.3	- 11.2	260	252	331	8.2	7.3	9.2
Sweetwater	21,768	21,494	21,978	1.3	- 1.0	1,814	1,669	2,427	8.3	7.8	11.0
Teton	7,827	8,608	7,184	- 9.1	9.0	565	436	524	7.2	5.1	7.3
Uinta	10,620	10,711	11,294	- 0.8	- 6.0	938	876	1,431	8.8	8.2	12.7
Washakie	4,282	4,443	4,623	- 3.6	- 7.4	312	293	445	7.3	6.6	9.6
Weston	3,482	3,564	3,584	- 2.3	- 2.8	186	215	308	5.3	6.0	8.6
United States									5.6	5.7	6.6
United States - Seasonally adjusted									5.9	6.0	6.9

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	NOV 1987[2]	OCT 1987[3]	NOV 1986	OCT 1987	NOV 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to NOV 1987	to NOV 1987
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	190.4	193.5	193.3	- 1.6	- 1.5
Manufacturing	8.8	8.9	8.2	- 1.1	7.3
Durable Goods	4.0	4.1	3.7	- 2.4	8.1
Nondurable Goods	4.8	4.8	4.5	0.0	6.7
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.0	12.5
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	181.6	184.6	185.1	- 1.6	- 1.9
Mining	19.1	19.3	18.1	- 1.0	5.5
Contract Construction	12.3	13.6	13.7	- 9.6	- 10.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	13.9	14.0	14.0	- 0.7	- 0.7
Railroad Transportation	2.1	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Transportation except Railroads	5.7	5.8	5.6	- 1.7	1.8
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.1	6.1	6.3	0.0	- 3.2
Wholesale & Retail Trade	44.3	44.8	45.2	- 1.1	- 2.0
Wholesale Trade	7.9	8.0	8.3	- 1.2	- 4.8
Retail Trade	36.4	36.8	36.9	- 1.1	- 1.4
Food Stores	5.6	5.6	5.6	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.5	5.5	5.8	0.0	- 5.2
Eating & Drinking Places	13.7	14.3	13.9	- 4.2	- 1.4
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.7	7.8	8.0	- 1.3	- 3.8
Services	31.3	32.4	31.9	- 3.4	- 1.9
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.4	7.5	7.3	- 1.3	1.4
Government	53.0	52.7	54.2	0.6	- 2.2
Federal Government	7.2	7.4	7.1	- 2.7	1.4
State & Local Government	45.8	45.3	47.1	1.1	2.8
State Government	13.4	13.3	14.0	0.8	- 4.3
Local Government	32.4	32.0	33.1	1.2	- 2.1

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	NOV 1987[2]	OCT 1987[3]	NOV 1986	OCT 1987	NOV 1986
	Total	Total	Total	to NOV 1987	to NOV 1987
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	28.2	28.5	28.4	- 1.1	- 0.7
Manufacturing	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	7.7
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	26.8	27.1	27.1	- 1.1	- 1.1
Mining	2.7	2.7	2.5	0.0	8.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.5	2.5	2.3	0.0	8.7
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.5	1.7	1.6	- 11.8	- 6.2
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.8	1.8	- 5.5	- 5.5
Wholesale & Retail Trade	8.4	8.3	8.6	1.2	- 2.3
Wholesale Trade	2.6	2.6	2.8	0.0	- 7.1
Retail Trade	5.8	5.7	5.8	1.8	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.5	1.5	1.6	0.0	- 6.2
Services	5.7	5.8	5.6	- 1.7	1.8
Government	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.0	- 1.8
Federal Government	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
State & Local Government	4.6	4.6	4.7	0.0	- 2.1
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.6	30.7	31.5	- 0.3	- 2.8
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.5	29.6	30.4	- 0.3	- 3.0
Contract Construction	2.0	2.2	2.0	- 9.0	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.6	2.6	3.0	0.0	- 13.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.5	7.5	7.8	0.0	- 3.8
Wholesale Trade	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.0	- 11.1
Retail Trade	6.7	6.7	6.9	0.0	- 2.9
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Services & Miscellaneous	5.3	5.3	5.4	0.0	- 1.8
Government	10.2	10.1	10.3	1.0	- 1.0
Federal Government	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	3.7
State & Local Government	7.4	7.3	7.6	1.4	- 2.6

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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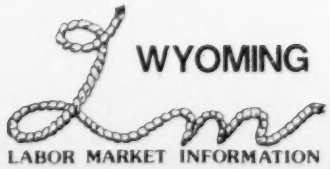

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

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